



SP/1764

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3-14-2000

PATENT
TH-1042 (US)
DSC:SWT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)	Group Art Unit 1764
Rashmi K. Shah and Thomas Mikus)	Examiner Walter D. Griffin
Serial No. 09/168,770)	
Filed October 8, 1998)	March 14, 2000
FLAMELESS COMBUSTOR PROCESS HEATER)	

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT ELECTION

This election is responsive to a Office action mailed on February 14, 2000, which contains a restriction requirement. Applicant hereby elects group I, which includes claims 1-7. This restriction requirement is respectfully traversed. The Examiner states that the first invention, drawn to a process heater, is a different invention than the second invention, a method to provide heat to a process reaction, because the heat of the method could be provided by a different heater, such as a fired heater. The claims drawn the method however, would not include a direct fired heater but would only be infringed by a flameless combustor such as that claimed in the apparatus claims. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

The Office action also contains a requirement to elect species. Three species are claimed in claims drawn to the second invention. If the restriction requirement is withdrawn, as requested above, then the species of claim 11, ethylbenzene dehydrogenation, is hereby elected.

Respectfully submitted,

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